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*Shakespeare's Principal Plays.* Edited by TUCKER BROOKE, JOHN CUNLIFF, and HENRY MCCrackEN. New York: The Century Co., 1914. Pp. 957. \$3.00.

Though combining new material in new form and though free from overburdening notes, this book does not seem to justify its publication. For full college courses and for private use it is incomplete; for high schools it is superfluous. Single-volume editions which are complete can be had at the same cost, while for high-school use the numerous cheap editions of single plays will probably continue to suffice. The "happy medium" attempted has not been realized.

R. B. W.

*Selected Essays.* Edited by CLAUDE M. FUESS. (Riverside Literature Series.) Cambridge: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1914. Pp. xiv+219. \$0.40.

*A Book of English Essays.* Edited by C. T. WINCHESTER. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1914. Pp. xiv+405.

*Selected Literary Essays from James Russell Lowell.* Edited by WILL DAVID HOWE and NORMAN FOERSTER. (Riverside Literature Series.) Cambridge: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1914. Pp. xviii+312. \$0.60.

These three books of essays for school use represent three distinct types of anthologies as well as three methods of annotating a school text. Mr. Fuess's collection proposes to meet college-entrance requirements by providing the student with a representative handbook containing various types of essays; he has the courage and good sense to include selections from contemporary essayists, such as Agnes Repplier and Arthur C. Benson. Mr. Winchester evidently intends to set forth in brief space by example the historical development of the essay. Finally the Lowell selections are of course designed for the intensive study of one essayist; as such the selection is particularly fortunate, since the student gains not only an acquaintance with Lowell, but also with Dryden, Chaucer, and other literary men.

It is to be regretted that the editors have not seen fit to annotate the Lowell volume, for of all American authors Lowell stands most in need of explanatory notes. The Winchester volume goes to the other extreme and explains everything; surely it is superfluous to note the sources of phrases like "the tents of Shem" or "in Rama," and words like "tilbury," "gazette," and "thug" might better point the way to a dictionary than to the laziness induced by notes. The book contains sets of suggestive questions and admirable biographies of the essayists. All in all, however, Fuess's restraint in the matter of annotations approaches nearer to the golden mean of note-making.

Equipped with any of these texts a high-school class should arrive at a pretty fair idea of the essay as a literary form.

H. M. J.